

10 November 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR : Leslie C. Dirks, OD&E/DDS&T

CGAS/DDI

SSO/OS/DDA

COMIREX

SIGINT Committee

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SUBJECT: Revision of NRO Agreement

NRO and OSD
review(s) completed.

1. Reference is the meeting we are to have at 0930 Tuesday, 12 November, in my office (7E19 Hq) to consider proposed changes to the draft revision of the NRO Agreement which the D/NRO submitted to the DCI.

2. Attached are two papers:

TAB A.
a. A revision of the D/NRO paper which reflects the comments each of you provided me plus a few of my own. (Don't quibble about the quality of the typing --it is my own.)

TAB B.
b. A proposal from the DDI representative which would substantially rewrite the proposed NRO agreement, picking up part of the structure and some of the more simply stated points of the 1965 agreement. The DDI also proposes that the agreement be stated as a DCID and written in that format. I personally do not consider this is a proper subject for a DCID but that can be discussed at the Tuesday meeting.

3. I would appreciate it if you each would review the attached papers prior to the Tuesday session. The order of business will be to consider first whether to (1) use the revised paper from the NRO or the DDI proposed paper as the basis for our discussion, and then (2) proceed to approve/develop the wording of the paper which is to be submitted to the DCI for his consideration.

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AGREEMENT FOR THE CONDUCT
OF THE
NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM

11 November 1974

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PAPER

TAB A

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the National Security Council Intelligence Directive, a National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) is hereby established for the conduct of reconnaissance in space by means of satellite vehicles.

a. The functions of the NRP will include the development, management, ~~and~~ control and operation of all projects, both current and long range, for the collection of intelligence information by spacecraft. Included are all image forming sensors of reconnaissance quality, non-image forming sensors designed for reconnaissance purposes and signal and electronic devices.

b. The NRP will involve the aggressive development and pursuit of advanced technology for the collection of intelligence information by spacecraft which is fully responsive to the Intelligence needs and objectives of the United States.

c. Although satellite reconnaissance as used herein encompasses the operation of spacecraft for the primary purpose of collecting ^{NG} national intelligence information, the collection systems involved will, in addition to their primary missions, also support the intelligence information requirements of operational military commands to the extent such is feasible.

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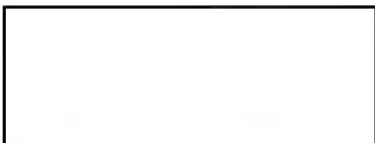
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2. In order to optimize efficiency and cost effectiveness and to maintain necessary protective security, satellite reconnaissance activities will be conducted under single and direct management. The National Reconnaissance Program will be organized, funded, developed and operated by the Secretary of Defense as Executive Agent of the Government.

3. A National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) will be administratively established within the Department of Defense. It will provide the necessary streamlined management to permit accomplishment of an effective satellite reconnaissance program and will serve as the source of expertise in facilitating development of requirements for satellite reconnaissance systems. It will be designated as a highly classified separate operating agency and will ~~not be subjected to normal review or oversight~~ establish independent fiscal control and accounting procedures which insure that all funds expended in support of the NRP are fully accounted for and appropriately utilized by the agencies concerned.

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4. The Director of the National Reconnaissance Office will be appointed by the Secretary of Defense ~~in consultation with~~ with the concurrence of the Director of Central Intelligence. To insure the optimal common use of space support resources, the Director, NRO will normally serve as the full-time Under Secretary of the Air Force ~~and he~~ The Director, NRO will:

a. ~~Assure that~~ Keep the Director of Central Intelligence, the Assistant Secretary of Defense ~~for~~ (Intelligence) and other officials having related responsibilities and interests appropriately informed of satellite reconnaissance activities.

Insure
b. ~~Assure~~ that reconnaissance satellite operations respond to the intelligence collection requirements ~~for national intelligence~~ issued by the Director of Central Intelligence with the advice of the United States Intelligence Board.

c. Insure ~~Assure~~ that SIGINT satellite development, control and operation are compatible with the SIGINT ~~processing~~ responsibilities of the Director, National Security Agency, and that on-orbit activities are compatible with ~~other national directives and established organizational relationships.~~ mechanisms

d. ~~Assure~~ Develop the necessary coordination/which will assure that satellite system development includes development of the tasking, processing and training components so as to be compatible with the requirements, responsibilities and relationships of the using agencies.

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MANAGEMENT

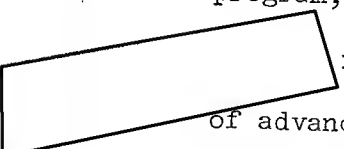
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~~The Secretary of Defense is responsible to the United States Government for the execution of the NRP and the maintenance of the NRO.~~

5. The Director of Central Intelligence, in consultation with ~~them~~ ~~with~~ the United States Intelligence Board, is responsible ~~to the United States Government~~ for ~~proper~~ establishment of collection priorities and requirements to be satisfied through national satellite reconnaissance, for reviewing the results obtained by the NRP, and for the balancing of the level of satellite collection and exploitation in order to optimize intelligence output. He will also provide security policy guidance to maintain a uniform system within the NRP.

6. The NRP Executive Committee, consisting of the Director of Central Intelligence, as chairman, and the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) and such additional members as may be agreed upon by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence with the advice of the National Security Council, will provide direction and resource application decisions to guide the NRP and to ~~formulate, guide and approve resource allocations~~ and assure the proper balancing of projects within the program.

7. The Director, NRO, will be administratively responsible to the Secretary of Defense for the execution of the National Reconnaissance Program and he will have the required authority to act for the Secretary in the discharge of this responsibility. He will be responsible ~~responsive~~ to ~~the guidance of~~ the Executive Committee in the execution of its decisions on the allocation of resources. He will manage assignments within the program, project reviews and studies associated with satellite reconnaissance.  initiate, approve and direct research and development in the pursuance of advanced technology for satellite reconnaissance. He will sit with the United States Intelligence Board and other councils as necessary.

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8. The National Reconnaissance Office will be manned by the three military departments, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency. The selection of personnel from these organizations agencies will be made by the Director NRO, in consultation with the heads of the nominating organizations. The principal staff security advisor to the ~~Director~~ Director, NRO, will be provided by the CIA.

The NRO Staff will have sufficient manning to provide primary support to the NRP Executive Committee principals through the Director, NRO.

There will be ~~three~~ three program offices, one from the Air Force, one from ~~the~~ CIA and one from the Navy. The program offices will be responsive directly to the Director, NRO for satellite development, ~~and~~ Operational activities and projects will be assigned by the Director, NRO to the program offices in accordance with their capabilities.

9. The Director, NRO will furnish necessary budget and program data to the Executive Committee, the Secretary of Defense, the Congress, and other appropriate Government officials. He will maintain a dedicated comptroller staff to manage to dollar resources allocated to the ~~the~~ program.

Secretary of Defense

Director of Central Intelligence

OFFICIAL: Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

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8 November 1974

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Comments on Proposed NRO Agreement

WORKING PAPER

We have reviewed the draft agreement in the context of the section in the Omnibus NSCID dealing with National Reconnaissance Activities and the NRO Agreement of 11 August 1965.

As a minimum we believe the following changes should be made:

- The DCI should be named as Chairman of the EXCOM.
- The NRP will be responsive to the requirements, guidance and tasking priorities established by the Director of Central Intelligence, taking into account the intelligence needs of U.S. operating military commands.

(This change would parallel the intent of the Omnibus NSCID as to who is in charge of U.S. intelligence requirements.)

We would prefer that the agreement be stated as a DCID and written in that format. Within DOD the argument is advanced that an agreement is required rather than an intelligence directive (DCID) because responsibility for this activity lies with the Secretary of Defense. Following this logic, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence should have an agreement covering NSA since the Secretary of Defense has a similar executive responsibility for NSA. The reason for an agreement rather than a directive is essentially a political choice rather than one dictated by existing legislation. We believe the Director and Secretary of Defense should be given their choice of what forum should be used to express these intelligence responsibilities.

In the event that the Director does not prefer the format of a DCID, we believe that the present NRO draft agreement should be substantially rewritten. Part of the structure and some of the more simply stated points of the 1965 Agreement should be followed. Attached is a skeleton of a draft agreement as it might be prepared. Refinements for this could be provided at next Tuesday's meeting.

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Attachment to DDI Rep.
Comments

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The National Security Council has authorized and directed that the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible, jointly and cooperatively, for management of the National Space Reconnaissance Program (NSRP). The Council has further authorized and directed that the purpose of this Program shall be to collect foreign intelligence information for use in the formulation and implementation of U.S. foreign policy and in support of U.S. military forces. The NSRP:

- encompasses all activities and projects associated with the research, development, design, procurement, and operation of image-forming and non-image forming sensors for the collection of foreign intelligence information from space;
- shall be responsive to requirements, guidance, and priorities established by the Director of Central Intelligence for the collection of foreign intelligence information from space.

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- A. The Secretary of Defense will:
1. be responsible for the overall execution of the National Space Reconnaissance Program (NSRP);
 2. establish administratively within the Department of Defense a National Space Reconnaissance Office (NSRO);
 3. appoint the Director of the NSRO in consultation with the Director of Central Intelligence;
 4. establish the Director, NSRO, as the full time Under-secretary of the Air Force.
- B. The Director of Central Intelligence will:
1. provide the NSRP with the intelligence guidance, collection priorities and tasking priorities;
 2. review the results obtained by the NSRP;
 3. review and approve the NSRP budget each year;
 4. provide security policy guidance to maintain a uniform security system in the operation of the NSRP.
- C. The National Space Reconnaissance Program Executive Committee (EXCOM) will:
1. consist of the Secretary of Defense or his designate and the Director of Central Intelligence and such additional members as may be directed by the National Security Council

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or as agreed between the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. be responsible for the formulation, direction, and approval of resource allocations in the NSRP and will assure the proper balancing of projects within the program;

3. be chaired by the Director of Central Intelligence.

D. The Director of the National Space Reconnaissance Office (NSRO) will:

1. be responsible for the management of the NSRO and execution of the NSRP subject to direction and control of the Secretary of Defense and the guidance of EXCOM;

2. manage assignments within the program, project reviews and studies associated with satellite reconnaissance;

3. initiate, approve and direct research and development in the pursuance of advanced technology for satellite reconnaissance;

4. assure that SIGINT satellite development, control and operation are compatible with the SIGINT processing responsibility of the Director, National Security Agency and that on-orbit activities are compatible with other national directives and established organizational relationships;

5. assure that satellite system development includes development of the tasking, processing and training components so as

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to be compatible with the requirements responsibilities and relationships of the using agencies;

6. sit with the United States Intelligence Board and other councils as necessary;

7. maintain and provide to members of the EXCOM records of the status of all projects, programs and activities of the NSRP in the research development, production and/or operational phases.

8. prepare a comprehensive budget for all aspects of the National Reconnaissance Program;

9. establish a fiscal control and accounting procedure to ensure that all funds expended in support of the National Space Reconnaissance Program are fully accounted for and appropriately used by the agencies concerned. In particular, the budget shall show separately those funds to be applied to research and exploratory design development, systems development, procurement, and operational activities. Funds expended or obligated under the authority of the Director of Central Intelligence under Public Law 110 shall be administered and accounted for by CIA and will be reported to DNRO in accordance with agreed-upon procedures.

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E. The National Space Reconnaissance Office (NSRO) will:

1. be manned by the three military departments, CIA and NSA. Selection of personnel from these agencies will be made by the Director, NSRO; ✓

2. arrange for sufficient manning of the NSRO staff in order to provide primary support to the EXCOM principals through the Director, NSRO; ✓

3. establish three program offices, one from the Air Force, one from the CIA, and one from the Navy. These program offices will be responsive directly to the Director, NSRO, for satellite development and operational activities and will be assigned projects in accordance with their capabilities.

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